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CITY OF WELLS

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1944

TO THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF WELLS.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the City during 1944.

The Public Health Officers of the Council are a part-time Medical Officer of Health and a Sanitary Inspector.

The Medical Officer of Health has held the post since April 1st, 1938 and he holds the following degrees: M.B., Ch.B.,

The Sanitary Inspector holds the Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board and is a member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

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The area of the City is 1301.150 acres.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year resident population of Wells in 1944 was 5,841.

The number of inhabited houses in the City at the end of 1944 was 1,617.

The Rateable value at the end of 1944 was £43,607.

The sum represented by a penny rate at the end of 1944 was £177.

BIRTH RATE

The total live births in the City in 1944 was:- 76 as follows:-

Legitimate 70: Male 43: Female 27:
Illegitimate 6: Male 4: Female 2:

The birth rate per thousand of the population was 13.001.

There were 4 still births: 1 male and 3 female.

INFANT MORTALITY

There were 3 deaths of infants under one year, all of whom were legitimate.

The infant mortality per thousand live births was 39.47

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

Disease	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	5	5	0
Whooping Cough	8	0	0

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hos.	Total deaths
Diptheria	1	1	0
Measles	28	1	0

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

On December 31st 1944 there were 33 cases of Tuberculosis on the Register.

Five cases were notified during the year.

Three cases were written from the Register during the year, as follows:-

Cured	0
Left County	0
Died	3

Total number of cases on register on December 31st, 1944 were 35.

There was a mild epidemic of measles during April, May and June and all the cases recovered.

DEATH RATE

There were 77 deaths in the City during 1944: 36 males and 41 females.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepis or other Puerperal cases.

There was one death from Cancer.

There were 20 deaths from Heart Disease: 9 males and 11 females.

Death rate per thousand of the population was 13.18.

BUG INFESTATION

There were no cases of Bug Infestation during the year.

SCABIES

There were very few cases of Scabies in the City during 1944.

GENERAL

The health of the City during 1944 was very satisfactory.

The birth rate was 13.001, the average for last 5 years was 11.396.

The death rate was 13.18 the average for last 5 years was 11.2.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of the district, which is served by the Wells City Council, is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The main arrangements for drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal were given in detail in previous reports, and have not been materially altered.

The disposal works are situate to the West of the City on a site well removed from habitation and highways. The system is overworked and a scheme for remodelling the works is ready for action as soon as circumstances permit.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH INQUIRIES

(Particulars of any held, object result)

N I L

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR

(1) By local authority

With state Assistance	(a) Rehousing under Housing Act 1936.	Nil
	(b) Overcrowding	Nil
	(c) Other	Nil
Without state assistance		

(2) By other bodies or persons

(a) With state assistance	Nil
(b) Without state assistance	Nil

HOUSING INSPECTIONS

(1) 1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health of Housing Acts)	61
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	65
2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	NIL
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	NIL
	(c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary.	NIL
3.	(a) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	NIL
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	24
(11)	(a) Number of defective dwelling houses referred fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	20

(b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action. Nil

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

The house refuse collection in the City is carried out daily by means of a Scammell Refuse Lorry.

(111) Action under Statutory Powers during this year:

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act 1936. Nil

Proceedings under Public Health Acts. Nil

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act. Nil.

IV. HOUSING ACT 1936 - Overcrowding.

The overcrowding situation in the City is not serious, but there are isolated cases which will receive attention when alternative accommodation is available.

MILK SUPPLY

Number of Producers on the Register 7.

Number of Distributors on the Register, divided as follows:-

(a) Distributors only. 8

(b) Distributors who are also producers.

(A producer is only included as a distributor as he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers.)

MEAT SUPERVISION

Slaughterhouses: Licenced 4: Registered 5:

Total 9:

Yours faithfully,

A. Cecil Hinchs

Medical Officer of Health.

Date.....1.....9.....1945

DISTRICT.....W.A.T.S.URBAN..... Year 1944

Deaths under 1 year divided as follows:-

Unde 1 week....1..... 1 - 4 weeks .....0.....

1 - 6 months ...0..... 6 - 12 mths. .....0.....

Total under 1 year .....1.....

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total deaths.
Small Pox	0		
Scarlet Fever	5	5	
Diptheria	1	1	
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	0		
Measles	28	1	
Whooping Cough	8		
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0		
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	3		
Dysentery	0		
Malaria	0		
Pneumonia	0		
Acute Poliomyelitis	0		
Encephalitis Lethargica	0		
Other diseases notifiable locally, e.g. Chicken Pox:-			
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		Total cases Notified	Total Deaths
Tuberculosis	Respiratory	5	3
	Non-respiratory	0	0

WATER SUPPLY (particulars of any changes during the year)

NONE

SEWAGE DISPOSAL. (Particulars of any works put in hand during the year or changes made)

No changes have been made but plans and specifications have been completed for new Disposal Works at an estimated cost of £48,000. The work is to be put in hand as soon as possible.

HOUSING (Particulars as regards overcrowding and as to sufficiency of houses to meet demand. Action taken as regards provision of new houses) The housing situation is bad and apart from the great need to house our returning soldiers we must accept the fact that many residents are living under difficult conditions in condemned houses and in houses likely to be condemned. A layout has been approved for the provision of 72 permanent houses and a commencement has been made with the roads and sewers.

SCABIES. (Action taken to deal with Scabies)

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Medical Officer of Health.